

# **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2009

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 7/14/10

# ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Renee Mire Michel  
Ascension Parish Assessor  
Donaldsonville, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR (Assessor)** as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Assessor's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and the general fund of the Ascension Parish Assessor, as of December 31, 2009, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, for the year ended December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Assessor adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* during 2009.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 29, 2010, on our consideration of the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, and the schedule of funding progress of other postemployment benefits on pages 3 through 9 and 31 through 33 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance

*Faulk & Winkler, LLC*

Certified Public Accountants

Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
June 29, 2010

# **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Our analysis of the Ascension Parish Assessor's (Assessor) financial performance provides an overview of the Assessor's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is designed to focus on the current year's activities and currently known facts. This MD&A should be read in conjunction with the financial statements which begin on Exhibit A.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2009, the Assessor experienced growth in revenues as ad valorem tax collections increased (15%) relative to the prior year, although expenditures increased (6%). State revenue sharing income remained consistent with prior year. Additionally, the Assessor receives revenues from charges for services and interest income, from which approximately \$21,000 in revenues have been collected. Throughout this period, the Assessor has focused on maintaining a logical and thoughtful alignment of resources to continue to fill its roll within the government of Ascension Parish (Parish).

The major financial highlights for 2009 are as follows:

- Assets of the Assessor exceeded its liabilities at the close of the year by approximately \$1,965,000 (net assets). All of these net assets may be used without restriction to meet the Assessor's ongoing obligations to citizens as a unit of the Parish government.
- As of the end of the year, the Assessor's general fund reported a fund balance of approximately \$1,954,000, which is an increase of approximately \$147,000 from prior year's ending fund balance of \$1,807,000. The entire fund balance is undesignated and unrestricted and can be used at the Assessor's discretion.
- The primary government's total net assets decreased by approximately \$17,000 during 2009, which is primarily the result of the accrual of other post employment benefit liabilities of approximately \$178,000 in the current year.

Significant aspects of the Assessor's financial well being as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 are detailed throughout this analysis.

## **USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Assessor's financial statements focus on the governmental unit as a whole (government-wide) and on the individual governmental fund. Both perspectives (government-wide and fund level) allow the reader to address relevant questions, broaden a basis for comparison from year to year, and should enhance the Assessor's accountability.

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities (on pages 11 and 12) provide information about the activities of the Assessor and present a longer-term view of the Assessor's finances.

Fund financial statements start on page 13. For governmental activities, these statements depict how services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Assessor's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Assessor's most significant funds. The only fund the Assessor operates is the general fund.

The Assessor's auditors have provided assurance in their independent auditors' report, located immediately preceding this MD&A, that the financial statements are fairly stated. Varying degrees of assurance are being provided by the auditor regarding the Required Supplementary Information. A user of this report should read the independent auditors' report carefully to ascertain the level of assurance being provided for each part of this report.

### **Reporting on the Assessor**

Our analysis of the Assessor as a whole begins on page 11. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities report information about the Assessor and about its activities in a way to determine if the Assessor is in better condition as a result of the year's financial results. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to accounting methods used by most private-sector companies. All of the revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in these statements for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

These two statements report the Assessor's net assets and related changes. You can think of the Assessor's net assets—the difference between assets and liabilities—as one way to measure the Assessor's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Assessor's net assets are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in Parish's ad valorem tax base, to assess the overall health of the Assessor.

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities consist only of governmental activities.

**Governmental activities** - All of the Assessor's basic services are reported here, which include only the general administration of the yearly assessment of property values within the Parish. Ad valorem taxes finance the majority of these activities.

At December 31, 2009, the Assessor's net assets were approximately \$1,965,000, all of which was unrestricted. Restricted net assets are normally reported separately to show legal constraints from debt covenants and enabling legislation that limits the Assessor's ability to use those net assets for day-to-day operations. However, the Assessor has no restricted net assets.

Our analysis below of the primary government focuses on the net assets and change in net assets of the Assessor's governmental activities.

Ascension Parish Assessor  
Statement of Net Assets  
December 31, 2009 and 2008

	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
Current and other assets	\$ 2,035,475	\$ 1,910,116
Capital assets	113,118	102,434
Total assets	<u>2,148,593</u>	<u>2,012,550</u>
Current liabilities	5,434	30,217
Long-term liabilities	177,878	-
Total liabilities	<u>183,312</u>	<u>30,217</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	113,118	102,434
Unrestricted	<u>1,852,163</u>	<u>1,879,899</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 1,965,281</u>	<u>\$ 1,982,333</u>

Net assets of the Assessor's governmental activities decreased by approximately \$17,000 during the year ended December 31, 2009. Unrestricted net assets decreased by approximately \$28,000. Unrestricted net assets represent the part of the net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by enabling legislation or other legal requirements and may be used at the Assessor's discretion. The changes in net assets are discussed later in this analysis.



The results of the past two year's operations for the primary government as a whole, as reported in the Statement of Activities, are as follows:

Ascension Parish Assessor  
Changes in Net Assets  
For the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008

	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
Revenues:		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 9,122	\$ 8,713
General revenues:		
Ad valorem taxes	1,534,965	1,452,735
State revenue sharing	98,546	99,261
Investment earnings	11,898	17,776
Loss on sale of capital assets	(6,785)	(1,509)
Miscellaneous	2,609	1,316
Total revenues	<u>1,650,355</u>	<u>1,578,292</u>
Function/Program expenses:		
General government	<u>1,667,407</u>	<u>1,475,770</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,667,407</u>	<u>1,475,770</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(17,052)	102,522
Beginning net assets	<u>1,982,333</u>	<u>1,879,811</u>
Ending net assets	<u>\$ 1,965,281</u>	<u>\$ 1,982,333</u>

The decrease in net assets of approximately \$17,000 is primarily attributed the accrual of other post employment benefit liabilities of approximately \$178,000 during 2009. General governmental expenses increased by approximately \$191,600 compared to 2008, an increase of only \$14,000 after consideration of the other post employment benefits accrual.

### Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Traditional users of governmental financial statements will find the fund financial statements presentation more familiar. The focus is now on major funds, rather than generic fund types.

### **Reporting on the Assessor as a Whole**

Our analysis of the Assessor's general fund begins on page 15 with the fund financial statements that provide detailed information about the general fund—not the Assessor as a whole. The general fund is required to be established by State law. However, the Assessor may establish funds to account for specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes. The Assessor has not established any funds other than the general fund.

**Governmental funds** – Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. All of the Assessor's basic services are reported in governmental funds. These funds are reported using the modified accrual basis of accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Assessor's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps users determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Assessor's programs. The Assessor has one governmental fund, which is the general fund.

**Notes to the financial statements** – The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements are a required part of the basic financial statements and can be found on Exhibit A-6.

**Other information** – In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning original and final budgetary comparisons to actual results for the year for the Assessor's major fund, the general fund, which can be found on Exhibit B.

(Continued)

### Financial Analysis of the General Fund

The general government operations of the Assessor are accounted for in the general fund. The focus of this fund is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Assessor's financing requirements. The following is a summary of general governmental operations for 2009:

	(in thousands)	
	2009	2008
Revenues	\$ 1,654	\$ 1,507
Expenditures	<u>1,507</u>	<u>1,427</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	147	80
Beginning fund balance, as restated	<u>1,807</u>	<u>1,727</u>
Ending fund balance	<u>\$ 1,954</u>	<u>\$ 1,807</u>

The Assessor's general fund experienced a surplus of approximately \$147,000 during 2009 that primarily relates to an increase in revenues generated by ad valorem taxes the Assessor recognized during 2009. At December 31, 2009, the fund balance of the general fund was approximately \$1,954,000 compared to the fund balance of approximately \$1,807,000 at December 31, 2008. All of this fund balance is undesignated and available for utilization at the Assessor's discretion.

Sources of governmental revenues, excluding transfers, are summarized below:

<u>Source of Revenue</u>	(in thousands)			
	2009		2008	
	Revenue	%	Revenue	%
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 1,532	92.6	\$ 1,380	91.6
State revenue sharing	99	6.0	99	6.6
Interest income	12	0.7	18	1.2
Other	<u>11</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0.6</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,654</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>\$ 1,507</u>	<u>100.0</u>

General governmental revenues increased by approximately \$147,000, or 10%. This increase is attributable to an increase in ad valorem tax collections.

General governmental expenditures increased by approximately \$80,400 or 6%, from approximately \$1,427,000 in 2008 to approximately \$1,507,000 in 2009. This increase is related to the increase in personnel costs and capital outlay expenditures.

## **CAPITAL ASSET ADMINISTRATION**

### **Capital Assets**

At the completion of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, the Assessor had approximately \$113,100 invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation of approximately \$239,700, comprised of office equipment, furniture and vehicles.

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Equipment and furniture	\$ 93,624
Vehicles	<u>19,494</u>
Total capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 113,118</u>

## **BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS**

During 2009, the Assessor did not amend its original budget. Actual revenues exceeded budgeted revenues by approximately \$88,000, or 6%. Additionally, actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by only 2%, or approximately \$23,000.

## **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS**

The Assessor is dependent on property tax collections in the Parish for approximately 90% of its revenues. The Assessor expects its revenues to increase because of the influx of residents within the Parish. The budget expenditures for the 2010 fiscal year are expected to decrease slightly due to a reduction in capital outlay spending.

### **Contacting the Assessor's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Assessor's finances and to show accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional financial information should be directed to the Assessor's office:

Mrs. Renee Mire Michel	Phone: (225) 473-9329
Ascension Parish Assessor	Fax: (225) 473-9333
P.O. Box 544	Email: <a href="mailto:rmichel@ascassessors.com">rmichel@ascassessors.com</a>
Donaldsonville, LA 70346	Website: <a href="http://www.ascensionassessor.com">www.ascensionassessor.com</a>

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR  
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**

December 31, 2009

	<b>Primary Government Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 424,486
Receivables:	
Ad valorem taxes	1,513,355
State revenues sharing	65,698
Adjudicated assessment	8,146
Tax roll preparation	3,046
Prepaid insurance	20,744
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>113,118</u>
 Total assets	 <u><u>\$ 2,148,593</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,434
Other post-employment benefits	<u>177,878</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>183,312</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Investment in capital assets	113,118
Unrestricted	<u>1,852,163</u>
 Total net assets	 <u>1,965,281</u>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 <u><u>\$ 2,148,593</u></u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR****STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

Function/Program	Expenses	Program Revenues Charges for Services	Net (Expenses) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets
			Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:			
General government	\$ 1,667,407	\$ 9,122	\$ 1,658,285
Total	\$ 1,667,407	\$ 9,122	1,658,285
<b>General revenues:</b>			
Taxes:			
Ad valorem taxes			1,534,965
State revenue sharing			98,546
Interest			11,898
Loss on disposal of fixed assets			(6,785)
Miscellaneous			2,609
Total general revenues			1,641,233
Change in net assets			(17,052)
Net assets - beginning of year, as restated			1,982,333
Net assets - end of year			\$ 1,965,281

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.

# ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR

## BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUND

December 31, 2009

	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 424,486
Receivables:	
Ad valorem taxes	1,513,355
State revenues sharing	65,698
Adjudicated assessment	8,146
Tax roll preparation	3,046
Prepaid insurance	<u>20,744</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 2,035,475</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,434
Deferred revenue	<u>75,896</u>
 Total liabilities	 81,330
 <b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Unreserved, undesignated	<u>1,954,145</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 <u>\$ 2,035,475</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.



**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND**  
**BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**

December 31, 2009

Total fund balance - governmental fund (Exhibit A-2)	\$ 1,954,145
Capital assets used in governmental activities that are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	113,118
Some revenues were collected more than sixty days after year-end and, therefore, are not available soon enough to pay for current-period expenditures	
Ad valorem taxes	75,896
Long-term liabilities (e.g. capital leases), that are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	
Other post employment benefits	<u>(177,878)</u>
Net assets of governmental activities (Exhibit A)	<u>\$ 1,965,281</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUND**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Taxes:	
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 1,532,169
State revenue sharing	98,546
Charges for services - tax roll preparation	9,122
Interest	11,898
Miscellaneous	<u>2,609</u>
Total revenues	<u>1,654,344</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Current function	
General government	
Salaries	856,628
Insurance	254,330
Retirement	164,069
Office supplies	146,605
Mapping	17,049
Professional	10,160
Capital outlay	<u>58,157</u>
Total expenditures	<u>1,506,998</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	147,346
Fund balance, beginning of year, as restated	<u>1,806,799</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,954,145</u></u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO**  
**THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

The change in net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:

Excess of revenues over expenditures (Exhibit A-4)	\$ 147,346
Some revenues will not be collected for sixty days after year end, thus they are not considered "available" revenues in the governmental funds.	
Ad valorem taxes	2,796
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay exceeded depreciation.	
Capital outlay	58,157
Depreciation expense	(40,688)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	<u>(6,785)</u> 10,684
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	
Net other post employment benefit obligation	<u>(177,878)</u>
Change in net assets of governmental activities	<u>\$ (17,052)</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements  
are an integral part of this statement.

## **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a four-year term. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the office and provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and peculiarly responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The Ascension Parish Assessor (Assessor) employs 19 employees, including 18 deputies. In accordance with Louisiana law, the Assessor bases real and movable property assessments on conditions existing on January 1 of the tax year. The Assessor completes an assessment listing by July 1<sup>st</sup> (May 1<sup>st</sup> in reassessment years) of the tax year and submits the list to the Ascension Parish (Parish) governing authority and the Louisiana Tax Commission, as prescribed by law. Once the assessment listing is approved, the Assessor submits the assessment roll to the Parish tax collector, who is responsible for the collection and distribution of taxes to the various taxing bodies. The Assessor's office is located in the Ascension Parish Courthouse in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

At December 31, 2009, there were 49,603 real property, movable property, and public service assessments totaling \$523,447,000, \$392,132,180 and \$79,529,760, respectively. This represents an increase of 1,229 assessments caused primarily by the influx of people in the Parish during the year. Total assessed value increased by \$39,275,250 in 2009.

#### **BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The Assessor's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Assessor are discussed below.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**BASIS OF PRESENTATION (Continued)**

In June 1999, the GASB approved Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*. Certain of the significant changes in the Statement include the following:

- A Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section providing an analysis of the Assessor's overall financial position and results of operations.
- Financial statements prepared using full accrual accounting for all of the Assessor's activities.
- A change in the fund financial statements to focus on the major funds.

**REPORTING ENTITY**

The Assessor is an independently elected official is not fiscally dependent on the Ascension Parish Council (Council). As the governing body of the Parish, for reporting purposes, the Council is the financial reporting entity for the Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (Council), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Assessor for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criterion includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
  - a. The ability of the Council to impose its will on that organization and/or,
  - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Council.
2. Organizations for which the reporting entity does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the Council.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**REPORTING ENTITY (Continued)**

Due to the significance of the relationship between the Assessor and the Council, the Assessor has determined that the office is a component unit of the Council. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Assessor and do not present information on the Council, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity of the Council.

**BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The Assessor's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and applied to governmental units. Private sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in both the government-wide financial statements and the proprietary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the GASB. Governments also have the option of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to the same limitation.

The government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities for all non-fiduciary activities. The government-wide presentation focuses primarily on the sustainability of the government as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues.

The government-wide statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include: (1) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements are very similar to the traditional government fund statements as prepared by governments prior to the issuance of GASB No. 34.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****BASIS OF PRESENTATION (Continued)****Fund Financial Statements (continued)**

The Assessor reports the following major governmental fund:

**General Fund** - The General Fund is the Assessor's only fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1906, is the principal fund of the assessor and accounts for the operation of the Assessor's office. Compensation received from ad valorem tax revenue authorized by Louisiana R.S. 47:1907-1908 is accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND MEASUREMENT FOCUS****Government-wide financial statements**

The government-wide financial statements were prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-exchange Transactions*.

**Fund financial statements**

The governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included in the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other uses) in net current assets. Governmental funds are maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Governmental fund revenues resulting from exchange transactions are recognized in the fiscal year in which the exchange takes place and meets the government's availability criteria (susceptible to accrual). "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year-end. Charges for services, interest income and most governmental miscellaneous revenues are recorded as earned, which is when they are measurable and available.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the Assessor receives value without directly giving value in return, include ad valorem taxes. Ad valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing (which is based on population and homesteads in the assessment district) are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on December 1st of each year, and become delinquent after December 31st.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND MEASUREMENT FOCUS (Continued)**

Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable, except for (1) unmatured interest on general long-term debt, which is recognized when due, and (2) claims and judgments and compensated absences, which are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund type when paid with expendable financial resources. Depreciation is not recognized in the governmental funds.

**BUDGET POLICY AND BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING**

Annually, the Assessor adopts a budget on the general fund. The budget practices include: (1) publishing the budget in the official journal and making it available for public inspection no later than 15 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, (2) holding a public hearing for the proposed budget, and (3) adopting the budget before commencement of the applicable fiscal year. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Budget amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include original adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments. There were no amendments to the original budget during 2009. All appropriations lapse at year end.

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents for the Assessor include amounts in demand deposits and time deposits. The Assessor considers all highly liquid debt instruments or certificates of deposit purchased with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. If such instruments have an original maturity date in excess of three months, such amounts are classified as investments on the statement of financial position.

**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. For governmental activities, uncollectible amounts due for ad valorem taxes and other receivables are recognized as bad debts through the use of an allowance account or expensed at the time information becomes available, indicating that the particular receivable is not collectible. In governmental fund types, the uncollectible amount is charged directly to the revenue reported.



**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

**Government-wide Statements**

In the government-wide financial statements, fixed assets are accounted for as capital assets. All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual cost is unavailable, except for donated capital assets, which are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. The Assessor's capitalization policy stipulates a capitalization threshold of \$500.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are expensed.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an allocated expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Assets. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Furniture and equipment	5-10 years
Vehicles	5 years

**Fund Financial Statements**

In the fund financial statements, fixed assets used in governmental fund operations are not capitalized. Instead, capital acquisition is reflected as expenditures in the general fund.

**COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

Employees of the Assessor's office earn two to three weeks of vacation leave each year depending on length of service. Employees earn two weeks of sick leave each year. Vacation and sick leave cannot be accumulated and must be used in the year earned.

**NET ASSETS**

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets consist of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use by external parties such as creditors, grantors, laws or regulations of other governments. There are no restricted net assets as of December 31, 2009.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. They may also affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses of the government-wide financial statements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE**

The Assessor adopted GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, during 2009 and recognized postemployment expenses in the financial statements for the 2009 actuarially required contribution for future postemployment benefit costs. This standard was effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2008, for governments that were Phase III for the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34. Please refer to Note 6, Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB).

**NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The Assessor may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates of deposit of state banks organized under the laws of Louisiana and national banks having their principal office in the State of Louisiana or other qualifying federally insured investments.

At December 31, 2009, the Assessor's deposits totaled \$424,486 and the related bank balances were \$472,203.

The bank balance is categorized as follows:

Category 1 - Amount insured by the FDIC	\$ 253,582
Category 2 - Amount collateralized with securities held by pledging financial institution's trust department in the Assessor's name	<u>218,621</u>
Total bank balance	<u>\$ 472,203</u>

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the Assessor's deposits may not be returned to it. The Assessor's cash and investment policy, as well as state law, require that deposits be fully secured. At year end, the Assessor's deposits were not exposed to any custodial risk.

### NOTE 3 - PROPERTY TAXES

The Assessor's ad valorem property tax is levied each October 1 on the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1, for all real and business personal property located in the Parish. The assessed value of the roll on January 1, 2009, upon which the levy for the 2009 calendar year was based, was \$955,109,150. The authorized and levied millage for Ascension Assessor Assessment District for the tax year 2009 was 1.87 mills. Taxes are due on December 1<sup>st</sup> and become delinquent by January 1<sup>st</sup> following the October 1<sup>st</sup> levy date.

The following are the principal taxpayers for the Assessor and related ad valorem tax revenue for the Assessor whose percentage of total assessed valuation is 3% and greater.

<u>Principal Taxpayers</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Shell Chemical Company	\$ 64,067,520	6.71%
BASF Corporation	44,195,830	4.63%
CF Industries, Inc.	32,442,210	3.40%

### NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS

#### Capital Assets

A summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2009 is as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
<b>Capital assets being depreciated</b>				
Furniture and equipment	\$ 298,432	\$ 36,729	\$ (40,752)	\$ 294,409
Vehicles	85,729	23,516	(50,831)	58,414
Total capital assets	<u>384,161</u>	<u>60,245</u>	<u>(91,583)</u>	<u>352,823</u>
<b>Less accumulated depreciation for:</b>				
Furniture and equipment	202,911	31,841	(33,967)	200,785
Vehicles	78,816	8,847	(48,743)	38,920
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>281,727</u>	<u>40,688</u>	<u>(82,710)</u>	<u>239,705</u>
<b>Total capital assets, net</b>	<u>\$ 102,434</u>	<u>\$ 19,557</u>	<u>\$ (8,873)</u>	<u>\$ 113,118</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2009 charged to the general government function was approximately \$40,700.

## NOTE 5 - PENSION PLAN

### Plan Description

Substantially all employees of the Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement Plan (Plan), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees.

All full-time employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment and not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the Fund. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 1/3% of their final-average salary for each year of credited service, not to exceed 100% of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The Fund also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established or amended by state statute.

The Fund issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Fund. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Plan, Post Office Box 14699, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4699, by calling (225) 928-8886, or by visiting their website at [www.louisianaassessors.org](http://www.louisianaassessors.org).

### Funding Policy

Plan members were required by state statute to contribute 8.0% of their annual covered salary and the Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 13.50% of annual covered payroll. The Assessor may also elect to pay all or any portion of the contributions required by eligible employees, although the portion paid by the Assessor must be the same proportion for all eligible employees. The Assessor elected to pay all eligible employees' contribution for the year ended December 31, 2009. Contributions to the Plan also include one-fourth of 1% (1% for Orleans Assessor) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each Assessor, plus revenue sharing funds appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana R.S. 11: 103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Assessor's contribution to the Plan for the years ending December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007 was approximately \$105,600, \$104,400, and \$96,200, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

**NOTE 5 - PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**On-Behalf Payments**

The Assessor elected to pay all eligible employees' contributions for the year ended December 31, 2009. The Assessor's on-behalf payments to the Plan for the years ending December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007 was approximately \$62,600, \$61,600, and \$59,200, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year. These expenses are included in the amount of retirement expense reported on Exhibit A- 4 and Exhibit B.

**NOTE 6 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**Plan description and contribution rates**

Upon retirement, employees of the Assessor may voluntarily participate in the Assessor's health, dental and life insurance postemployment benefit, a single-employer defined benefit plan over which the Assessor has authority to establish and amend benefit plan provisions. The Assessor pays 100% of the premium cost for the retired employee only; the retired employee pays 100% of the cost to insure any dependents.

**Funding policy**

Until 2009, the Assessor recognized the cost of providing postemployment medical and dental benefits (the Assessor's portion of the retiree medical and dental benefit premiums) as an expense when the benefit premiums were due and thus financed the cost of the post-employment benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. Based on the actuarial study for 2009, the Assessor's portion of health care funding costs for retired employees totaled \$86,314.

Effective with the year beginning January 1, 2009, the Assessor implemented GASB No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions* (GASB 45). The Assessor establishes and amends the funding policy.

(Continued)

**NOTE 6 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

**Annual required contribution**

The Assessor's Annual Required Contribution (ARC) is an amount actuarially determined in accordance with GASB 45. The ARC is the sum of the normal cost plus the contribution to amortize the actuarial accrued liability (AAL). A level dollar, closed amortization period of 30 years (the maximum amortization period allowed by GASB 45) has been used for the postemployment benefits. The total ARC for 2009 is \$264,192 for medical, dental and life insurance, as set forth below:

	<u>12/31/2009</u>
Normal cost	\$ 119,357
30-year unfunded actuarial liability amortization	<u>144,835</u>
Annual required contribution (ARC)	<u>\$ 264,192</u>

**Net postemployment benefit obligation**

The table below presents the Assessor's net other postemployment benefit (OPEB) obligation (liability) for 2009:

	<u>12/31/2009</u>
Beginning net OPEB obligation	\$ -
Annual required contribution	264,192
Current year retiree premiums paid	<u>(86,314)</u>
Ending net OPEB obligation	<u>\$ 177,878</u>

The following table presents the Assessor's annual postemployment benefits (PEB) cost, percentage of the cost contributed, and the net unfunded postemployment benefits (PEB) liability as of December 31, 2009:

<u>Postemployment Benefit</u>	<u>Annual OPEB Cost</u>	<u>Percentage of Annual Cost Contributed</u>	<u>Net OPEB Obligation</u>
12/31/2009	\$ 264,192	33%	\$ 177,878

**NOTE 6 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

**Funded status and funding progress**

In 2009, the Assessor made no contributions to its postemployment benefits plan. The plan was not funded, has no assets, and hence has a funded ratio of zero. As of January 1, 2009, the first and most recent actuarial valuation, the actuarial accrued liability (AAL) was \$2,504,479, which is defined as that portion, as determined by a particular actuarial cost method (the Assessor uses the unit credit cost method), of the actuarial present value of postemployment plan benefits and expenses which is not provided by normal cost. Since the plan was not funded in 2009, the entire actuarial accrued liability was unfunded. Exhibit B-2 is the Schedule of Funding Progress, which presents information about the actuarial value of plan assets and the actuarial accrued liability for benefits.

	12/31/2009
Actuarial accrued liability (AAL)	\$ 2,504,479
Actuarial value of plan assets	-
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL)	\$ 2,504,479
Funded Ratio (Act. Val. Assets/AAL)	0%
Covered payroll	\$ 856,628
UAAL as a percentage of covered payroll	292%

**Actuarial methods and assumptions**

Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. The actuarial valuation for post employment benefits includes estimates and assumptions regarding (1) turnover rate; (2) retirement rate; (3) health care cost trend rate; (4) mortality rate; (5) discount rate (investment return assumption); and (6) the period to which the costs apply (past, current, or future years of service by employees). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

The actuarial calculations are based on the types of benefits provided under the terms of the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the Assessor and its employee plan members) at the time of the valuation and on the pattern of sharing costs between the Assessor and its plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations on the pattern of cost sharing between the Assessor and plan members in the future. Consistent with the long-term perspective of actuarial calculations, the actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial liabilities and the actuarial value of assets.

**NOTE 6 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

**Actuarial cost method**

The ARC is determined using the unit credit cost method. The employer portion of the cost for retiree medical care in each future year is determined by projecting the current cost levels using the healthcare cost trend rate and discounting this projected amount to the valuation date using the other described pertinent actuarial assumptions, including the investment return assumption (discount rate), mortality, and turnover.

**Actuarial value of plan assets**

Since this is the first actuarial valuation, there are no assets. It is anticipated that in future valuations will show a smoothed market value consistent with Actuarial Standards Board Actuarial Standard of Practice Number 6, as provided in paragraph number 125 of GASB Statement No. 45.

**Turnover rate**

An age-related turnover scale based on actual experience as described by administrative staff has been used. The rates for each age are below:

Age	Percent Turnover
46 - 49	22%
50 - 54	44%
55 - 57	4%
58 - 62	18%
63+	28%

**Withdrawal rates**

Sample rates of employee withdrawal (exclusive of withdrawal by death or retirement) are as follows:

Years of Service	Rate
< 1 - 1	12%
2 - 6	5%
7 - 8	4%
9 - 12	3%
13 - 14	2%
> 15	1%



**NOTE 6 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

**Investment Return Assumption (Discount Rate)**

GASB 45 states that the investment return assumption should be the estimated long-term investment yield on the investments that are expected to be used to finance the payment of benefits (that is, for a plan which is funded). Based on the assumption that the ARC will not be funded, a 4% annual investment return has been used in this valuation. This is a conservative estimate of the expected long-term return of a balanced and conservative investment portfolio under professional management.

**Health Care Cost Trend Rate**

The expected rate of increase in medical cost is based on projections performed by the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as published in *National Health Care Expenditures Projections: 2003 to 2013, Table 3: National Health Expenditures, Aggregate and per Capita Amounts, Percent Distribution and Average Annual Percent Change by Source of Funds: Selected Calendar Years 1990-2013*, released in January, 2004 by the Health Care Financing Administration ([www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)). "State and Local" rates for 2008 through 2013 from this report were used, with rates beyond 2013 graduated down to an ultimate annual rate of 5.0% for 2016 and later.

**Mortality Rate**

The 2000 Retirement Plans Experience Committee (RP-2000) table, new graduated basic amount-adjusted mortality tables projected to the year 2000, with floating Scale AA for males and females is used.

**Method of Determining Value of Benefits**

The "value of benefits" has been assumed to be the portion of the premium after retirement date expected to be paid by the employer for each retiree and has been used as the basis for calculating the actuarial present value of OPEB benefits to be paid. The employer pays 100% of the cost of the medical, dental and life insurance for the retirees only (not dependents) until death.

**NOTE 7 - ASSESSOR'S COMPENSATION**

The compensation and expense allowance paid the Assessor, Renee Mire Michel, has been prepared in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:1907. Under these statutes, the annual salary of the Assessor is fixed at \$123,360 and, in addition, the Assessor is granted ten percent of the annual compensation, or \$12,336, as a personal expense allowance provided that the tax receipts of the tax recipient body are not reduced. The compensation and expense allowance paid the Assessor are included in the expenditures of the general fund as a component of salaries expense.

**NOTE 8 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In preparing these financial statements, the Assessor has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through June 29, 2010, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**NOTE 9 - PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS**

During 2009, the Assessor discovered errors in the recording of transactions in previous periods. The changes resulted in an increase to the fund balances of the governmental funds and net assets on the government-wide basis. Changes to these balances are as follows:

	<u>Government-wide Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Governmental fund - General Fund</u>
Net assets, beginning of year, as previously stated:	\$ 529,598	\$ 427,164
Increase in fund balance for recognition of ad valorem tax revenues on a modified accrual basis	<u>1,452,735</u>	<u>1,379,635</u>
Net assets - as restated	<u>\$ 1,982,333</u>	<u>\$ 1,806,799</u>

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR  
GENERAL FUND**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance - Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Taxes:				
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 1,435,000	\$ 1,435,000	\$ 1,532,169	\$ 97,169
State revenue sharing	104,450	104,450	98,546	(5,904)
Charges for services - tax roll preparation	9,000	9,000	9,122	122
Interest	18,000	18,000	11,898	(6,102)
Miscellaneous	-	-	2,609	2,609
Total revenues	<u>1,566,450</u>	<u>1,566,450</u>	<u>1,654,344</u>	<u>87,894</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current				
General government-taxation				
Salaries	820,696	820,696	856,628	(35,932)
Insurance	278,000	278,000	254,330	23,670
Retirement	170,000	170,000	164,069	5,931
Office supplies	125,000	125,000	146,605	(21,605)
Mapping	25,000	25,000	17,049	7,951
Professional	15,000	15,000	10,160	4,840
Capital outlay	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>58,157</u>	<u>(8,157)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>1,483,696</u>	<u>1,483,696</u>	<u>1,506,998</u>	<u>(23,302)</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ 82,754</u>	<u>\$ 82,754</u>	147,346	<u>\$ 64,592</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year, as restated			<u>1,806,799</u>	
Fund balance, end of year			<u>\$ 1,954,145</u>	

## **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**

### **NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

#### **NOTE 1 – BUDGETS**

##### **Budget Policy and Budgetary Accounting**

A proposed budget is prepared and submitted by management of the Assessor prior to the beginning of each fiscal period. A budget summary and notice of a public hearing is published, with the public hearing being conducted prior to the adoption of the budget.

The general fund annual operating budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. At the end of the fiscal period, unexpended appropriations automatically lapse. Budget amendments are approved by the Assessor and are included in the financial statements. There was no amendment to the original budget during 2009.

In connection with budget preparation, a portion of the unreserved fund balance of an individual fund may be designated for expenditures of the subsequent period. Such designations would represent the extent to which the fund balance is used to balance the subsequent period's operating budget of that fund, as reflected in the legally adopted budget. There were no such designations in 2009.

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The Assessor's general fund budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which is described in Note 1 to the Assessor's financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2009.

ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN  
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

For the year ended December 31, 2009

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll [(b-a)/c]
1/1/2009	\$ -	\$ 2,504,479	\$ 2,504,479	0.00%	\$ 856,628	292%



**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING  
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT  
OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Ascension Parish Assessor  
Donaldsonville, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the **ASENSION PARISH ASSESSOR (Assessor)** as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which comprise the Assessor's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 29, 2010. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assessor's internal control over financial reporting.

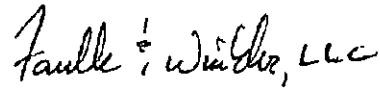
A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

## Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Assessor's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended for the information of the Assessor, management, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Certified Public Accountants

Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
June 29, 2010

**ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

**1) Summary of Auditors' Results:**

- A) The type of report issued on the financial statements: **Unqualified opinion.**
- B) Significant deficiencies in internal control were disclosed by the audit of financial statements: **None.**  
Material weaknesses: **None.**
- C) Noncompliance that is material to the financial statements: **None.**
- D) Findings relating to the financial statements reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*: **None.**



## **ASCENSION PARISH ASSESSOR**

### **SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**

For the year ended December 31, 2009

#### **2008-1 Budget Publication (Resolved)**

**Observation:** Public entities are required to timely submit their budget and make it available for public inspection not later than fifteen days prior to beginning of the fiscal year. The Assessor did not meet this requirement in 2008. However, the Assessor published the budget in the official journal on December 5, 2008, which is more than 15 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year under audit.

Due to the corrective action taken by management, this finding is considered resolved.